

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 CEA-01

COME-00 EA-07 FRB-03 IO-10 NEA-10 OPIC-03 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 IGA-02 /121 W

----- 071166

P R 301830Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1951

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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//CORRECTED COPY: PARA 5 LINES 4 AND 5 ADDED.//

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, GW

SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO GREECE

1. SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' EFFORTS
TO BIND GREECE CLOSER TO WESTERN EUROPE ADVANCED YET
ANOTHER STEP WITH THE TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT OF FRG
CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT. AS WAS EXPECTED, CHANCELLOR
SCHMIDT PUBLICLY ENDORSED AGAIN GREEK ENTRY INTO
THE EC, SPOKE OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AS THE BEST MEANS
FOR RESOLVING THE CYPRUS SITUATION, AND PLEDGED CONTINUED
FRG MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO GREECE IN THE COMING
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YEAR. ON GREEK-NATO RELATIONS, SCHMIDT COMMENTED THAT

PARTICIPATION IN THE MILITARY SIDE OF THE ALLIANCE WAS NOT A PREREQUISITE TO BEING ACTIVE IN ITS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. THE OFFICIAL VISIT WAS CONDUCTED IN A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE, AND THE TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS WERE REPORTEDLY EXTENSIVE AND FRUITFUL. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND HIS FAMILY ARE REMAINING IN GREECE ON A PRIVATE VACATION UNTIL JANUARY 8. END SUMMARY.

2. RETURN VISIT. GERVZN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, RECIPROCATING A SIMILAR TRIP TO BONN LAST MAY BY PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ATHENS DECEMBER 28-29. HE WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER, AND BY FOREIGN UNDER SECRETARY BOLLING; HIS DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, CARL-WERNEK SANNE; WERNER BRUNS, THE FRG DIRECTOR FOR PRESS AND INFORMATION, AND OTHER OFFICIALS. AMONG THE PROTOCOLARY AFFAIRS OF THE VISIT WERE A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT TSATOSOS, PLACING A WREATH ON THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER AND TWO DINNERS.

3. CYPRUS. ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ON SEVERAL DIFFERENT OCCASIONS ENDORSED THE FORTHCOMING INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL AS THE BEST PATH TOWARDS RESOLVING THE DISPUTE. THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE STRESSED THE NEED FOR A PEACEFUL AND PERMANENT SOLUTION QUARANTEEING THE INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF CYPRUS, AS WELL AS THE ECONOMIC SURVIVAL AND SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF BOTH THE GREEK AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS. DURING THEIR JOINT NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE END OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT, THE CHANCELLOR REITERATED WHAT HE HAD MENTIONED IN LESS EXPLICIT TERMA IN HIS TOAST SUNDAY EVENING (SEE FBIS 282030Z DEC 75) BY OFFERING GERMANY'S GOOD OFFICES TO ASSIST IN THE NORMALIZATION OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. WHEN ASKED WHETHER GREECE ACCEPTED THIS OFFER PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS REPLIED THAT "EVERY EFFORT TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IS WELCOME...HOWEVER, THERE IS NO NEED FOR MEDIATION" SINCE THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WILL BE RESUMED. "NEVERTHELESS", CONCLUDED CARAMANLIS, "THERE IS ROOM FOR VARIOUS COUNTRIES TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE ON THE SIDE WHICH DOES NOT SHOW THE NEEDED UNDERSTANDING AND CONTINUES TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE UNREASONABLE."

4.GREEK ENTRY INTO THE EC. THROUGHOUT THE VISIT, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ENDORSED WITHOUT RESERVATIONS GREEK ENTRY INTO THE EC. AS EXPRESSED IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE: "THEY HAVE AGREED THAT THE BEST GUARANTEE FOR THE EXISTENCE AND SAFEGUARDING OF DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE LIES IN THE CONTINUAL PROMOTION OF ITS ORGANIC UNITY. WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK

THEY ONCE AGAIN DECLARED THE USEFULNESS OF THE SPEEDY AND TOTAL ENTRY OF GREECE INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAS PROMISED ITS COMPLETE POLITICAL SUPPORT." ON A RELATED ISSUE IMPORTANT TO GREECE, THE SECOND EEC FINANCIAL PROTOCOL UNDER WHICH GREECE WOULD HOPE TO RECEIVE SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS PRIMARILY FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, SCHMIDT WAS MORE CAUTIOUS INDICATING THE MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE EXAMINED FURTHER BY THE EC COUNCIL.

5. MILITARY ASSISTANCE. PRESENT AND FUTURE GERMAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE WAS APPARENTLY AN IMPORTANT TOPIC DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS, ALTHOUGH A FRG EMBASSY SOURCE TOLD US NO FIRM FIGURES WERE AGREED UPON. IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT, SCHMIDT UNDERLINED THAT GERMANY HAD BEEN "THE ONLY EUROPEAN COUNTRY" TO GIVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO GREECE DURING THE PAST YEAR ON A GRANT BASIS. HE NOTED FURTHER THAT A BILL HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE GERMANY PARLIAMENT FOR ADDITIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR 1976. A GERMAN DELEGATION IS TO COME TO GREECE FOR FURTHER TALKS IN JANUARY 1976, HE ADDED.

6. GREECE-NATO RELATIONS. THE VISITING CHANCELLOR BOBBED AND WEAVED IN HIS PUBLIC POSITION ON NATO-GREEK RELATIONS, BUT COMMENTED THAT THE GREEK-TURKEY DISPUTE "HAD NOT EXACTLY STRENGTHENED THE COHESION OF THE ALLIANCE. "NATURALLY" HE SAID, "WE HOPE THAT IN THE FUTURE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE, OR AT LEAST IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE, TO HAVE A UNIFORM MILITARY ORGANIZATION. UP TO THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, THE FRENCH EXAMPLE HAS SHOWN, AND WE ARE CONVINCED ON THIS, THAT IT IS NOT AN IMPERATIVE PREREQUISITE THAT ONE HAS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY ALLIANCE IN ORDER TO BE A MEMBER, A GENUINE MEMBER OF

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THE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION."

7. ECONOMIC RELATIONS. AS EVIDENCE OF GERMANY'S WILLINGNESS TO HELP GREECE IN HER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT CITED THE 180 MILLION DM LOAN AGREEMENT ARRANGED IN 1974, PART OF WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN DRAWN. HE ALSO FORESAW A REVIVAL OF GERMAN INVESTMENT IN 1976 AND 1977 BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD, INDICATING ITS POSITIVE RAMIFICATIONS FOR GREECE.

8. COMMENT: THE VISIT WAS A DECIDED PLUS FROM THE GREEK SIDE, WITH REITERATION OF PUBLIC GERMAN SUPPORT FORTHCOMING ON THE IMPORTANT ISSUE OF GREEK ENTRY INTO THE EC. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS WAS ABLE TO CONCLUDE 1975, THE YEAR OF HIS DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE TOWARDS WESTERN

EUROPE, ON A POSITIVE NOTE, FOR IN SPITE OF LINGERING
MEMORIES OF THE GERMAN OCCUPATION, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT IN
THE GREEK MIND OF THE IMPORTANCE OF GERMANY IN WESTERN
EUROPE INTO WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HOPES TO LEAD GREECE AS
A FULL COMPONENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS10247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750451-0155
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975126/aaaaaepw.tel
Line Count: 175
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO GREECE
TAGS: PFOR, GR, GE, (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006